

Enterprise City Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
P. O. BOX 311790
220 HUTCHINSON STREET
ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA 36331-1790

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

NOV 20 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

November 1, 2007

DOCKET FILE 0071-010000

Mr. Kevin Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

CC: 02-6

Dear Chairman Martin:

On March 1, 2007, a tornado hit our city and impacted our lives and community in ways that will always imprint our minds and hearts. This tornado destroyed two schools and leveled homes and businesses with an astounding quickness. It was in the strange seconds of silence as the tornado moved past that the depth of destruction was truly understood. It was not our two beloved buildings. It was the soft cries for help that grew and a sense of urgency that came as the knowledge that young, vibrant lives could be gone. The immediate reaction of students, staff, personnel, and community focused on getting our children out and to safety. The response to the emergency was overwhelming. Fellow students, teachers, administrators ignoring their own injuries, struggled to move the concrete and bricks to get to our children. A pregnant teacher throwing her body over a student when she saw the wall collapsing—risking her life and her baby's life to save this child. But with all the effort and love, it was in those moments it was evidenced that our greatest fear was realized. Eight precious lives were taken and the sorrow and pain felt unending.

Since that day, each of us has determined that we would remain strong in the memory of those young men and women, and that we would do everything we could to bring normalcy back for those students who still grieved but needed to have a direction and a purpose as they began putting the pieces together. We all felt that we were at an intersection in life that could determine our children's direction forever. It is with this in mind that we began laying out the plans to rebuild the two schools. One school was Hillcrest Elementary and the other was the Enterprise High School. As we all know, those best-laid plans can go astray. We are struggling to come up with the funding to rebuild the two schools. In the meantime, the Hillcrest students are meeting in the Enterprise Early Education Center and our high school students have been holding classes at our community college. We have been most concerned about our high school students because the Ozark Enterprise Community College did not have the facilities or the resources that we had so carefully built to support our students and prepare them for their future. The Ozark Enterprise Community College has gone out of their way to accommodate by

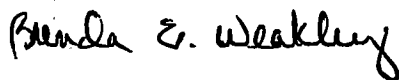
No. of Copies rec'd 041
List A B C D E

letting us put one trailer after the other all over their beautiful campus. The high school students cannot start class until 11:30 and classes end after dark. There were neither technology or curriculum labs nor the infrastructure to support these. Our staff and maintenance people have worked without rest to build, salvage, adjust and repair. You can imagine just the simple task of trying to find records in the destruction or resource that could be recovered.

All of this background leads to our request for relief to help us create the infrastructure and technology needed to technologically support our students. Our hope is that Hillcrest Elementary will be built and ready for occupancy by July, 2009. At this point we cannot even hazard a guess on our Enterprise High School date. The funds must be secured and then we start building. In order to try to restore our standards for technology, we request a waiver granting our schools a 90% discount rate for the next 3 years, beginning with the 2006 Funding Year, as we begin our recovery and attempt to establish pre-tornado conditions. This highest level of priority would allow us have the maximum opportunity to replace as we plan and build for the present and future. In requesting this waiver, we are asking that the Commission's rules be waived for good cause. We do have special circumstances that would warrant a deviation from the general rule and it would, indeed, serve the public interest. Our school system is the essence of this small city—the representative of quality and commitment—and there is a deep longing to make it whole and, once again, providing for the children of our community.

Included with this letter of request are pictures to document the damage and need. The E-rate discounts on internal connections will go a long way in our recovery. We thank you for your consideration. If you should need any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 334-347-9531.

Sincerely,



Brenda E. Weakley
Elementary Supervisor/System Technologist